

REMARKS

Claims 1, 4-14, and 16-18 are presented for examination. Claims 2, 3, and 15 have been cancelled. Claims 1, 6, 8, 10, 11, 16, and 17 have been amended in order to more particularly point out, and distinctly claim the subject matter to which the applicants regard as their invention.

Support for the claim amendments are as follows:

- Claim 1, 10, and 11 have been amended to include the limitations contained in previously presented claims 6 and 15
- Claim 6 has been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims
- Claim 11 reflects previously presented claim 15 rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims

The applicants respectfully submit that no new matter has been added. It is believed that this Amendment is fully responsive to the Office Action dated January 17, 2007.

The present invention recited by claims 1, 4-14, and 16-18 are patentably distinct over the cited prior because the references fail to teach or suggest the claimed switching control means which, in the event that it does not receive a switching confirmation packet from a station, (1) resets the frequency channel to a channel that was in use prior to receiving switching request packets; and, (2) sends a response packet to the switching apparatus

indicating whether a switching confirmation packet has been received from each station.

Claims 1, 3, 5, 8, 10, 14, and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being anticipated by Kostic, et al. (U.S. 6,826,409) in view of Cervello, et al. (U.S. 2002/0060995).

Claim 3 has been cancelled.

Claims 1 and 10 have been amended to include the limitations of claims 6 and 15 which the Office Action found to be patentably distinct over the prior art. Specifically, the combined disclosure of **Kostic** and **Cervello** fails to disclose the limitations recited in amended claims 1 and 10, namely a switching control means which, in the event that it does not receive a switching confirmation packet from a station, (1) resets the frequency channel to a channel that was in use prior to receiving switching request packets; and, (2) sends a response packet to the switching apparatus indicating whether a switching confirmation packet has been received from each station.

In light of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Claims 6, 7, 9, 15, 16, and 18 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 15 has been cancelled.

In accordance with the Office Action's suggestion, claim 6 has been rewritten in independent form. Amended claim 11 contains the limitations of claim 15 rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants respectfully submit that, as amended, claims 6, 7, 9, 11, 16, and 18 are in condition for allowance.

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, claims 1, 4-14, and 16-18 are in condition for allowance, which action at an early date is requested.

If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the applicants undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

Mr. Keiichi Yamamoto
Yamamoto Patent & Engineering
February 25, 2007
Page 13

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, the applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

ARMSTRONG, KRATZ, QUINTOS,
HANSON & BROOKS, LLP
/James E. Armstrong, III/
James E. Armstrong, III
Attorney for Applicant
Reg. No. 18,366

JEA/sks
Atty. Docket No. 020236
Suite 1000
1725 K Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006
(202) 659-2930

23850
PATENT TRADEMARK
OFFICE

Q:\FLOATERS\GAN\02\020236\020236_amendment_032807